

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3118

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, BG

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

1. UNDERSTAND FROM DR. PARSONS OF A/OS THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR OBTAINING GRANT FUNDS TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION AT AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL/DACCA (AIS/D).

2. EMBASSY AND AIS/D BOARD MOST GRATEFUL THAT DACCA SCHOOL BEING CONSIDERED AS RECIPIENT GRANT FUNDS. SCHOOL, WHICH STARTED OUT IN 1972 WITH 31 STUDENTS, NOW HAS MORE THAN 131 STUDENTS (OVER HALF AMERICANS) AND PROSPECTS FOR 1974/75 SCHOOL YEAR INDICATE ENROLLMENT OF UP TO 150. PRESENT LEASED SCHOOL BUILDING, WHICH IS CONVERTED APARTMENT BUILDING, INADEQUATE TO MEET LIKELY DEMAND, PARTICULARLY IN LOWER LEVELS. BOARD HAS SOUGHT LANDLORD'S PERMISSION MAKE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN SCHOOL BUILDING AND TO ADD CLASSROOMS. BOARD ALSO LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF BUYING LAND AND DESIGNING AND BUILDING OWN SCHOOL.

TO FINANCE LATTER PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN TUITION (25 PERCENT INCREASE ALREADY ENVISAGED FOR 1974/75) AND BORROWING, IF POSSIBLE, FROM LOCAL BANKS, AS WELL AS FUND-RAISING EFFORTS.

3. CONSTRUCTION GRANT FROM A/OS COULD HELP SUBSTANTIALLY IN ENCOURAGING SCHOOL TO PLAN FOR BOTH IMMEDIATE CLASSROOM NEEDS AND LONGER RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. SUCH A GRANT IS HEREWITH SOUGHT.

BOSTER

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